

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of scheduling pattern-based Web services comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a plurality of Web services;

extracting a pattern object from the request and placing the extracted pattern object in a work area, the pattern object specifying a plurality of Web services to be invoked;

provisioning one or more termination rules within a termination watcher, wherein the termination watcher removes the pattern object from the work area if it is detected that the pattern object conforms to one or more of the termination rules;

providing a plurality of service activation rules accessible by a scheduler, each service activation rule specifying a trigger condition and a state condition for causing a watcher and a corresponding Web service to be activated;

receiving in the scheduler at least one event generated dynamically and indicating a change in the work area, wherein each event specifies trigger information;

comparing the service activation rules with the trigger information of the at least one event;

identifying service activation rules having trigger conditions and state conditions that match the received event and corresponding pattern object;

causing watchers specified by the identified service activation rules to execute and thus invoke corresponding Web services; and

running the Web services until a termination criterion is detected by the termination watcher.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each event indicating a change in the work area is associated with the pattern object.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
at least one of the watchers modifying the pattern object in the work area; and
the work area sending at least one event indicating a state change, wherein each event specifies a trigger condition.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one of the watchers modifies the pattern object in the work area according to instructions from an associated one of the Web services.
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each pattern object specifies at least two Web services to be performed.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the at least two Web services operate concurrently with one another.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the at least two Web services operate sequentially.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the watchers modifies the pattern object according to instructions from an associated one of the Web services.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving an event list of one or more events from the work area;
identifying trigger information from events in the event list;
comparing the trigger information with trigger conditions specified by service activation rules;
adding matching service activation rules to a trigger list;
identifying state information from the pattern object in the work area;
comparing the state information of the pattern object with state conditions of the service activation rules that have been added to the trigger list;
adding matching service activation rules to an execution list; and
selecting watchers specified by service activation rules in the execution list for execution, causing each watcher to invoke a corresponding Web service.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:
scanning the execution list to determine whether any service activation rules for competing Web services exist;
if no service activation rules for competing Web services exist, invoking all watchers in the execution list;
if service activation rules for competing Web services exist, performing the following steps:

identifying service activation rules in the execution list corresponding to competing Web services;

selecting certain service activation rules from the identified service activation rules corresponding to competing Web services using at least one service selection rule, wherein the at least one selection rule comprises a heuristic evaluation of the competing Web services; and

invoking watchers specified by the selected service activation rules and.

14-38. (Cancelled)